

of their patriarchal head. In cases where the land parcels are too small for shared cultivation, elder brothers enter into share-cropping arrangements with neighbouring landlords and set up their separate and independent households. When the father dies the land is parcellized among the sons, but shared tillage continues between the brothers.

Unlike the situation in Marj Na'je, the average size of owned plot is hardly sufficient for the support of the family (5.2 dunums in Zbeidat vs. 14.1 dunums in Marj Na'je after the fencing off of their land). Of the 32 farming households in Zbeidat 21 are also tenants, 18 of whom are share-croppers to resident and absentee landlords.

A typical share-cropping arrangement is one whereby the landlord provides his land, water and credit advance for the purchase of seeds, seedlings ploughing, fertilizers, and insecticides. In return the farmer provides his household labour and half the net income from the crop yield, after the deduction of expenses -- which are shared between landlord and farmer. All extra labour costs during the harvest season are born by the farmer.

As can be seen in Table 11:4. The extent of share-cropped land varies from one sub-clan to another, but in all cases it exceeds the proportion of owned plots. Cash rentals, on the other hand constitute a negligible component (7%) of the total cultivated area, and are concentrated in one sub-clan only.